

Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC)

2013-2014

Flagstaff, Arizona

Federal Legislative District(01)

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s):01

State Legislative District(s):02

Service Area by County/City: Coconino
County/Flagstaff

Project Federal Share: \$325,692

Project Local Match: \$403,502

Community Volunteers Recruited: 180

Volunteer Hours Served: 715

Value of Volunteer Hours: \$14,357.20

Community Need

Based on the Corps model used successfully throughout the US for more than 75 years to address critical environmental and infrastructure needs, CREC has been providing youth and young adult workforce development opportunities and natural and cultural resource conservation services in collaboration with a wide variety of community partners since 1997. The community needs we have identified are to provide meaningful job skills and personal developmental opportunities for youth and young adults and to improve overall forest health.

National Priority Area and Program Performance Goals: Youth Development

61 Corpsmembers aged 18 to 25 receive on the job work skills, mobilize community volunteers and engage in leadership training through implementation of projects helping to protect communities from wildfire and improve overall forest health.

National Priority Area: Environmental Stewardship, Capacity Building, and Economic Opportunity

75 miles of trail will be improved with land management agencies.

400 acres of land treated with community wildlife protection projects within the Wildland/Urban interfaces of Coconino County and Arizona communities.

Program Activities

CREC serves youth, aged 15 to 18 and young adults, aged 18 to 25, who are interested in environmental, resource conservation and land management related careers. Through direct, hands-on service, CREC Corpsmembers implement projects for virtually all of Arizona's public land managers and conservation agencies. Each CREC Corpsmember receives extensive work-skills training and conservation education in addition to service learning and AmeriCorps Education Awards that directly benefit their future pursuits in environmental fields.

Project work helps to protect rural communities throughout Arizona from the threat of wildfire; increases habitat for, and the populations of a variety of wildlife species; and provides greater, less damaging recreational opportunities for Arizona's citizens and visitors.



Williams Youth Conservation Crew - Kaibab NF

Program Impact from 2013

- 100 AmeriCorps graduates
- 22 local Youth Conservation Corps graduates
- 79,000 hours of Corpsmember direct service
- 736 hours of Corpsmember volunteer service
- \$252,771 in AmeriCorps Education Awards Granted
- 2979 Acres of Public Lands Improved
- 396 Miles of Trails Maintained
- 2660 feet of Retaining Walls Built
- 1960 Acres Surveyed for Invasive Species
- 621 Acres of Exotic/Invasive Plant Eradication
- 1100 Visitor Use Surveys Conducted
- 3 Miles of New Fence Constructed
- 6 Miles of Fence Removed

Mission

The Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) promotes stewardship by implementing a variety of conservation and service initiatives; encourages personal development through a combination of training, work experience, and educational opportunities; and carries on the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps with hard work, dedication, and pride.

Vision

CREC programs build healthy and sustainable communities, a trained and experienced workforce and a nation of environmental leaders.

History

Originally established in 1997 as a cooperative partnership between the US Forest Service and Coconino County, CREC was under the direction of Coconino County's Community Services Department from 1999-2013. In 2014, CREC partnered with Southwest Conservation Corps to join the Conservation Legacy group.

Initially funded by an AmeriCorps award in the amount of \$160,000, CREC has evolved into a career development stepladder of largely self-sustaining, partner supported programs.

Partnerships

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Lands, Arizona State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, Friends of Northern Arizona Forests, Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership, Local and Regional Fire Departments, National Park Service, Northern Arizona University, Oak Creek Watershed Council, Rural Communities Fuels Management Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, United States Forest Service, Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition

Awards and Accreditations

Corpsmember of the Year

(2006, 2008, 2010, 2011 & 2012) - *The Corps Network*

Service Project of the Year

(2006, 2007 & 2010) - *The Corps Network*

Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation

(2007) - *The Innovation Group*

Excellence in Corps Operations

(2006) & (2009) - *The Corps Network*



Forest Restoration – Coconino NF